

## What is an Ultrasound?

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### What is an Ultrasound Scan?

This is a simple examination, which uses sound waves to build up a picture of your body on a television screen.

### Why do I need this examination?

It has been identified you have some symptoms that require you to have an ultrasound examination, or it may be you need a follow-up examination to monitor your medical condition.

### Are there any risks?

Ultrasound has been in regular use for many years and is considered safe. However, as a medical examination, it will only be performed with good medical reason and by staff with the appropriate qualifications and experience.

### What do I need to do?

You need to read the accompanying letter carefully. It may contain specific instructions that need to be followed in order to give a successful result.

### Can I still take my regular medication?

You can still take any regular medication, unless you have been asked to starve and the medicine requires you to take it with food.

If you are diabetic and have been asked to starve, please contact us on the telephone number listed on the top of your appointment letter. We may need to make special arrangements for you.

### How long will it take?

The examination usually takes between 15-30 minutes to complete. This depends upon the type of scan needed.

### Chaperones

Where examinations of an intimate nature are carried out you may choose to have a chaperone, this can be someone you bring with you or please speak with the Sonographer who will arrange one for you.

### During the scan

You may be asked to change into a gown by a member of staff. This will depend upon the area of the body to be examined.

On entering the ultrasound room, the Sonographer performing the scan will introduce themselves, and ask you to lie on a couch, or sit on a chair.

A special gel will be placed on the part of your body that is to be examined. A small transducer (ultrasound "camera") is then moved over the skin to obtain a picture. The examination is usually painless, however you may feel some pressure as the transducer is applied to get a better view.

### Children

We ask that you not to bring children if at all possible. We appreciate that at times this may be difficult. Therefore, you may wish to bring another adult with you to supervise them in the waiting area whilst your examination is performed.

## Personal choices

As a teaching hospital, we often have radiographers and medical staff undergoing training. If a student is to be present or perform your scan we will ask your permission. You have the right to refuse. This will not affect your care in any way.

A chaperone is always available if required.

## Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on the telephone number listed on the top of your appointment letter as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you. **Please be advised that if you fail to attend your appointment, it may be necessary to remove you from the Ultrasound waiting list.**

## Finally

If you find reading this leaflet difficult or you do not understand what it means for you, please call the telephone number listed on the top of your appointment letter and we can talk it through.

## How to get to your appointment

**Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to..." leaflet or use the Trusts website for the latest information:**

For more information on how to get to our sites, please use the following website:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where)**

For more information on Medical Imaging, please visit our website:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging)**

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